

**SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**2006-2007 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
2ND NOVEMBER 2006**

EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Outcome: Corporate

Question Number: W578-07

Senator Ludwig asked in writing:

With regard to the preparation of Possible Parliament Questions briefs or other such documents intended to brief Ministers on an issue specifically for Question Time, could the department/agency provide (a) The number of such briefs prepared in each of the last three financial years (2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06) (b) The number of staff who are responsible for coordinating such briefs and the salary level they are engaged at (c) The name of internal unit/team that those staff belong to and a description of its other responsibilities (d) The total budget associated with the unit/team referred to in response to part 3.

Answer:

(a) and (b)

Financial year	*Number of question time briefs coordinated	Number and classification coordinating staff	**Salary range	
			Pay point lower (\$)	Pay point upper (\$)
2003-04	1659	0.25 EL1	53 500	98 000
		0.5 APS5 x 2	46 426	58 000
2004-05	1193	0.25 EL1	56 000	89 000
		1 x APS5	45 000	62 000
2005-06	1769	0.25 EL1	DEWR Broadband 3 62 000	133 333
		1 x APS6 1 x APS5	DEWR Broadband 2 40 000	75 000

* Includes question time briefs for DEWR and portfolio agencies.

** As reported in the relevant DEWR Annual Reports. Includes employees covered by the DEWR Certified Agreement and employees covered by Australian workplace agreements.

(c)

Parliamentary Team, Parliamentary and Communications Branch.

In addition to coordinating question time briefs the Parliamentary Team provides the following parliamentary and ministerial services to the Ministers and the portfolio:

- processing and quality control of ministerial correspondence and briefings
- Cabinet liaison services
- supporting the portfolio's appearance at Senate Estimates Hearings and coordinating answers to questions taken at the hearings
- tabling of parliamentary documents.

(d)

Under the Commonwealth's output and outcome based budgeting and reporting framework agencies are not required to report below the output level